THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Madras Refineries Limited was set up in 1965 as joint venture with NIOC (13%)* and Amoco India Inc. (13%)* and Cochin Refineries Limited was also set up in 1963 as joint venture with Phillips Petroleum Company Ltd. (25%)*. The present shareholdings of these Companies are as under

(i) *Madras Refineries Limited*		
Govt, of India		53.75%
National Iranian Oil Co.	:	12.21%
Others		34.04%
(ii) *Cochin Refineiies Limited*		
Govt, of India		55.05%
Govt, of Kerala	:	5.08%
Others	:	39.88%

* Equity participation.

Government have issued LOIs for setting up 3 Joint Venture Refineries each with a capacity of 6.0 MMTPA to be located in Eastern India, Central India and Western India by IOC, BPCL and HPCL respectively. Central India Refinery is planned to be implemented at Bina, Madhya Pradesh by BPCL and Oman Oil Company. Investment approval for this project has already been accorded and this rcfinary is expected to be mechanically completed by December, 1999. Eastern India Refinary is planned to be located in Orissa by IOC and Kuwait Petroleum Company. West Coast Refinery is planned to be located in Maharashtra by HPCL and Oman Oil Company. Both Eastern India and Western India Refineries are under various stages of processing for investment approval.

Recently, in pursuance of this polity, LOIs hav.,e also been granted to HPCL and BPCL for setting up refineries in Joint' Venture in Punjab with Saudi Aramco and Uttar Pradesh with Shell International Petroleum Co. respectively. The details of the equity participation in these Joint Venture Refineries are as under:—

PSU	:	26%
JV Partner	:	26%
Public	:	48%

Exploration Contracts and Accretion to Oil and Gas Reserves

610. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the RPIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how many exploration contracts for crude and natural gas have been awarded since 1990, year-wise, and for which areas/basins/blocks;

(b) what has been the normal success rate of such contracts and the progress in exploration and accretion to reserves through these contracts;

(c) in what manner the new potential areas, including deep waters, are sought to be explored for accretion to reserves of crude oil and natural gas and by when; and

(d) what is the policy of government in this regard; including invitation for private investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Information is given in enclosed statement *{See* below):

(b) It is too early to comment on the success of the contracts as these blocks are in the initial phase of exploration. No reserves have so far been accreted due to these contracts.

(c) In the Central Indian Basins, one location Tihki-1 in South Rewa was drilled to 4019 m which proved to be dry. Another location Anhoni-1 Satpura is currently under drilling. One location has been identified for drilling in Vindhyan basin. In addition to intensifying the exploratory effort in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Rajasthan it is proposed to initiate exploratory drilling in Ganga Valley areas in U.P. and north bank of

river Brahamputra Regarding deep water areas, 2 locations each in Western and eastern offshore have been prioritised for drilling and likely to be taken up in post monsoon period of 1997-98.

(d) *The Acclerated Exploration (Apex) Programme*

Apex seeks to intensigy exploration efforts and increase crude oil production through:

(i) *National Seismic Programme*

To study the configuration of some of the - less known and new sedimentary basins in the country.

(ii) *Deep Water Exploration*

Special surveys in deep sea (beyond 200 metres of water depth) to find drillablc prospects.

(iii) *Exploration in Frontier Areas*

A number of frontier areas hithcr-tc not explored owing to hostili environment, geological problems, lack o technology etc. to be subjected tc intensive attention.

(iv) *Overseas Activities*

Acquisition of acreage/reserves abroad by NOC's would be encouraged cither on their own or by taking a farm in share in prospective areas blocks.

2. In order to attract private investment Government of India ha: been inviting offers from Indian & foreign private companies for exploratioi and development in oil and gas sccton from time to time. So far. Government o India has awarded contracts for 35 exploration blocks and 30 discovcrei fields.

Statement

Blocks/Basins for which Contracts have been awarded

Year of award	No. of blocks	Name of Block/Basin
1992	2	KG-OS-90/I Krishna Godavari GN-ON-90/3 Pranhita Godavari (onshore)
1993	3	CY-OS-90/1 Cauvery Offshore RJ-ON-90/1 Barmer Saiichor GK-ON-90/2 Gujarat-kutch
1994	6	BB-OS/5 Bombay Offshore CY/OS/2 Cauvery Offshore RJ-ON-90/4 . RJ-ON-90/5 Rajasthan Basin GK-OS/5 Gujarat-Kutch Offshore KG-OS/6 Krishna Godavari Offshore
1995	3	CB-OS/1 Cambay offshore CB-ON/2 Cambay onshore CB-ON/7 Cambay onshore
1996	21	CB-OS/2 Cambay offshore RJ-ON/6 Rajasthan Basin CB-ON/1 Cambay onshore CB-ON/3 Cambay Onshore CB-ON/4 -do- CB-ON/5 -do- AA-ON/3 Assam-Arakan onshore GK-ON/4 Gujarat-Kutch onshore SR-OS-94/1 Saurashtra Offshore

Year of award	No. of blocks	Name of Block/Basin
		AA-ON/4 Assam-Arakan Basin
		AA-ON/6 -do-
		AAP-ON-94/1 -do-
		AA-ON/7 -do-
		CR-ON 90/1 -do-
		BB-OS/8 Bombay offshore
		KG-ON/1 Krishna Godavari onshore
		AA-ONJ-2 Assam-Arakan
		GK-OSJ-1 Gujarat-Kutch offshore
		GK-OSJ-3 Gujarat-Kutch offshore
		JM-ONJ-1 Jaisalmer Basin
		RJ-ONJ-94/1 Rajasthan Basin

ONGC Strike

611. SHRIMATI RENUKA :CHOWDHURY: Will the PRIME .MNISTER pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention as been drawn to the news item aptioned "Gas supply to industries hit as ONGC strike continue", which appeared 1 the Hindu dated 1st February, 1997; nd

(b) if so, the facts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE 1INISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND IATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. iAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Despite the relay hunger strike by le representatives of the Joint Action ommittee of all political parties at ajahmundry, drilling and production Derations of ONGC Ltd. continued un-iterrupted and supply of gas was also ot affected.

failing List for LPG Agencies and Connections in Bihar

612. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: till the PRIME MINISTER be pleased state:

(a) the number of applications pending LPG agencies in Bihar;

(b) the number of LPG agencies allotted till date and the number of those still to be allotted;

(c) the number of consumers in the State, district-wise;

(d) the number of consumers in the waiting list for LPG connections till date, district-wise;

(e) by when this waiting list would be cleared;

(f) whether there is an acute shortage in the supply of LPG cylinders in the State; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (d) As on 1.10.1996, there were 206 LPG distributors with a* customer population of 8.65 lakhs, having a waiting list of 8.94 lakhs in the State of Bihar. 8265 applications for 110 LPG distributorships were pending for selection with Oil Selection Board, Bihar.

(e) New LPG connections are released in a phased manner throughout the country including the State of Bihar depending upon the availability of LPG, new customer enrolement plan, waiting list, slack available with the distributors of the area and their viability. All the